

June 1, 2001

Alex Marion, Director
Programs
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: NRC'S ASSESSMENT OF TOPICAL REPORT MRP-44 - SUMMARY OF
NRC/NEI TELECONFERENCE OF MAY 30, 2001

Dear Mr. Marion:

On May 30, 2001, members of my staff and I held a teleconference with members of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the Materials Reliability Program (MRP) to discuss concerns with the contents of MRP Topical Report No. TP-1001491, Part 2, "PWR Materials Reliability Program Interim Alloy 600 Safety Assessments for US PWR Plants (MRP-44), Part 2: Reactor Vessel Top Head Penetrations." We briefly discussed some of the major issues with the MRP report that we identified to you in our list of questions transmitted to MRP via e-mail on Friday May 25, 2001 (ADAMS Accession Number for Discussion Topics ML011490006; ADAMS Accession Number for Revised Topics ML011490366).

The purpose of the phone call was to inform you that the NRC is considering issuance of a generic communication that would address actions to be taken to ascertain and ensure the structural integrity of the CRDM pressure boundary. The NRC is currently scheduled to conduct a meeting with NEI and the MRP on June 7th, 2001, to obtain information not included in the MRP-44 report. We anticipate that we will use the information provided to us during the meeting as part of our bases for determining what form of generic communication could be issued to the industry.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jack Strosnider of my staff at (301) 415-3298.

Sincerely,

Brian W. Sheron, Associate Director */ra/*
for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: J. Baily

Mr. Alex Marion
Director of Engineering
Nuclear Energy Institute
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc:
Jack Bailly

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